Distress sell of Turmeric

3284. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the distress sell of the turmeric in Kandhamal district, Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to prevent the distress sell and to protect the interest of farmers in that district who are mostly tribal; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) Government of Orissa informed that due to bumper production of turmeric in Kandhamal district, the farmers were resorting to distress sale.

In order to help turmeric growers NAFED has purchased 100 MTs of turmeric on commercial basis in this district. In addition, the Government of Orissa was also requested to send a proposal in the prescribed proforma for procurement of turmeric under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). No such proposal has so far been received.

Salinity Problem in Orissa

3285. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coastal land in Orissa are facing the growing salinity problem;

(b) if so, the steps taken to protect the coastal land from salinity;

(c) whether any Central scheme has been launched for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No systematic and scientific study has been taken up to assess the increase in coastal salinity problem in Orissa. However, it is estimated that 2.54 lakh ha. area is affected by coastal salinity in the State.

(b) A Joint Team had been constituted with the technical experts from Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources and ICAR to assess the extent of affected areas under coastal salinity in selected States. Based on the recommendations of the Joint Team report, pilot projects are being prepared in consultation with ICAR.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Rechannelisation of agricultural resources

3286. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to rechannelise available resources allocated for agriculture from one of "support-measures" to one of asset creation;

(b) whether any schedule has been drawn up to rechannelise the allocation into this kind of stream;

(c) if so, what would be the immediate change envisaged;

(d) whether there is any proposal to revamp many existing programmes which have not met the test of success over the last four decades; and

(e) the details thereof and the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The National Agriculture Policy has envisaged that the resource allocation regime will be reviewed with a view to rechannelising the available resources from support measures towards asset formation in rural sector.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) There is a proposal to integrate 27 existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes and pool the Central assistance provided to States/UTs under them into one Scheme to Supplement/Complement State efforts for development of agriculture. Under the Scheme, Central assistance to States, will be provided on the basis of their Work Plans, formulated through mutual consultations, which will comprise specific interventions of State's priority. The proposal will provide the needed flexibility to the States in revamping the existing programmes.